

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A method for soliciting and receiving bids, in a computer network, for goods or services necessary to satisfy a spot need of a buyer, comprising:

receiving a request to procure goods or services that are required to satisfy the spot need of the buyer, wherein the request includes information identifying a type of good or service being procured by the buyer;

determining whether the request includes geographic information; and

in the event that it is determined that the request includes geographic information:

~~_____ automatically selecting potential bidders for an auction in response to the good or service identified in the buyer's request by querying a database of information representing the capabilities of suppliers to deliver goods and services to geographic areas and automatically selecting as potential bidders for an auction those suppliers whose capabilities satisfy at least a portion of the request that includes a plurality of potential bidders, wherein each of the potential bidders is associated with purchasing requests directed to a particular good or service, and wherein the database includes historical performance information pertaining to at least some of the potential bidders, wherein the historical performance information includes information associated with the historic ability of a supplier to deliver a good or service after that supplier is designated a winning bidder in a prior auction;~~

_____ electronically notifying each of the potential bidders of an opportunity to submit a bid to satisfy all or part of the buyer's purchase request;

_____ conducting the auction that includes electronically accepting bids from those potential bidders that each provide one or more bids before a bidding deadline expires and not accepting the bids after the bidding deadline expires; and

_____ automatically selecting one or more winning bidders in accordance with the received bids.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Cancelled)
4. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein automatically selecting, electronically notifying, electronically accepting and selecting a winning bidder are completed within the same business day of receipt of the request.
5. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein automatically selecting, electronically notifying, electronically accepting and selecting one or more winning bidders are completed within 24 hours of receipt of the request.
6. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein automatically selecting, electronically notifying, electronically accepting and selecting one or more winning bidders are completed within a predefined amount of hours of receipt of the request.
7. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the electronically notifying further comprises posting a message on an electronic message board.
8. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the electronically notifying further comprises sending an electronic mail message to each of the selected bidders.
9. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein one or more steps in the method are performed by the buyer.
10. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising posting information about the request on a web page in the spot marketplace.
11. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising including a bidding time period and a bidding deadline in an electronic communication.
12. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the electronically notifying further comprises instructing the selected bidders to post bids before a bidding deadline.

13. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the electronically notifying further comprises instructing the selected bidders to post sealed bids before a bidding deadline.

14. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the electronically notifying comprises instructing the selected bidders to post partially open bids before a bidding deadline, wherein after a first bid each supplier may revise subsequent bids until a bidding deadline passes.

15. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the selecting further comprises notifying all bidders who posted bids about their status.

16. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the selecting further comprises notifying the one or more winning bidders of an award by electronic communications.

17. (Cancelled)

18. (Currently amended) A system for soliciting and receiving bids for goods or services necessary to satisfy a spot need of a buyer, comprising:

a supplier database comprising information representing the capabilities of associated with a plurality of potential bidders suppliers to deliver goods and services to geographic areas; ~~wherein the database also includes historical performance information pertaining to at least some of the potential bidders, wherein the historical performance information includes information associated with the historic ability of a supplier to deliver a good or service after that supplier is designated a winning bidder in a prior auction; and~~

a computer in communication with the supplier database and configured to:

receive a request to procure goods or services that are required to satisfy the spot need of the buyer, wherein the request includes information identifying a type of goods or services being procured by the buyer;

determine whether the request includes geographic information; and

in the event that it is determined that the request includes geographic information:

query the database and automatically select as potential bidders for an auction the potential suppliers whose capabilities satisfy at least a portion of the request bidders

~~for an auction in response to the good or service identified in the buyer's request by querying the database;~~

_____ electronically notify each of the potential bidders of an opportunity to submit a bid to satisfy all or part of the buyer's purchase request; and

_____ conduct the auction, wherein conducting the auction includes electronically accepting bids from those potential bidders that each provide one or more bids before a bidding deadline expires and not accepting the bids after the bidding deadline expires, and automatically selects one or more winning bidders in accordance with the received bids.

19. (Original) The system of claim 18, wherein each of the bidders is electronically coupled to a spot marketplace.

20. (Cancelled)

21. (Cancelled)

22. (Currently amended) A computer program product for soliciting and receiving bids for goods or services necessary to satisfy a spot need of a buyer, the computer program product being embodied in a computer readable medium and comprising computer instructions for:

receiving a request to procure goods or services that are required to satisfy the spot need of the buyer, wherein the request includes information identifying a type of good or service being procured by the buyer;

determining whether the request includes geographic information; and

in the event that it is determined that the request includes geographic information:

~~_____ automatically selecting potential bidders for an auction in response to the good or service identified in the buyer's request by querying a database of information representing the capabilities of suppliers to deliver goods and services to geographic areas and automatically selecting as potential bidders for an auction those suppliers whose capabilities satisfy at least a portion of the request that includes a plurality of potential bidders, wherein each of the potential bidders is associated with purchasing requests directed to a particular good or service, and wherein the database includes historical performance information pertaining to at least some of the potential bidders, wherein the historical performance information includes information~~

~~associated with the historic ability of a supplier to deliver a good or service after that supplier is designated a winning bidder in a prior auction;~~

_____electronically notifying each of the potential bidders of an opportunity to submit a bid to satisfy all or part of the buyer's purchase request;

_____conducting the auction that includes electronically accepting bids from those potential bidders that each provide one or more bids before a bidding deadline expires and not accepting the bids after the bidding deadline expires; and

_____automatically selecting one or more winning bidders in accordance with the received bids.